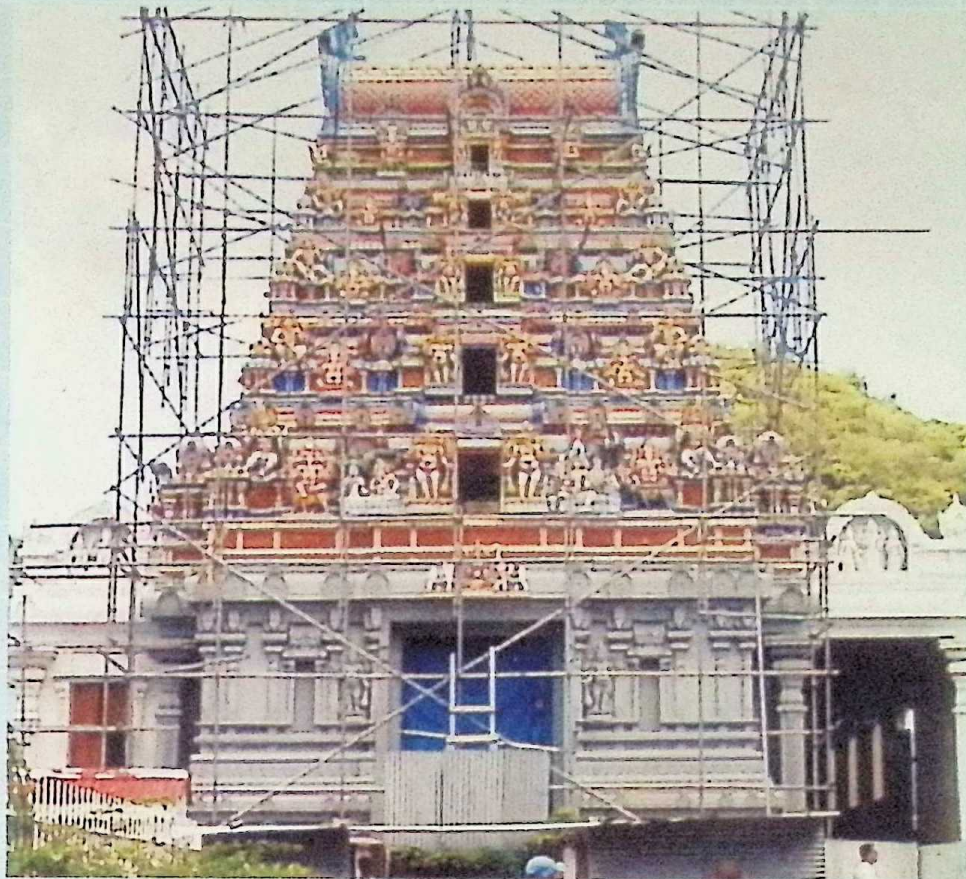


DRAVIDIAN TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE



**Elegant Five Storeyed RajaGopuram, newly designed and built.
This is a gem among towers built in recent times in India and elsewhere.**

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DRAVIDIAN

TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE

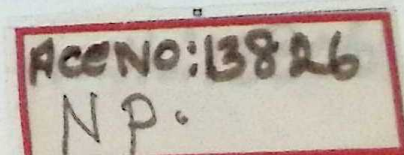
(SRI NAVASAKTI VINAYAGAR TEMPLE , SEYCHELLES)

Traditional Indian Architecture and Sculpture are becoming very popular in the overseas countries, of late, rather than in India, the land of their origin. But the Architectural and Sculptural forms (imagic forms) and the related aesthetical details and symbols are very enigmatic and mystic, for those who see them for the first time in India or for those who come to India from outside many a time in their life time. They are not able to understand the meaning and the design concepts as well as good or bad effects that they would cause on human psyche. Therefore, they are forced to look upon them as religious and sectarian and sometimes they brand them as superstitious. Why? and How?

The Indian tradition is **Spiritual** and **Mathematical in every respect. It is Scientific and Technological too.** The word religion does not apply to what has been done by our ancestors, in the past. It is misnomer to call it religion or religious. It is a foreign word, not in any way related to our culture. The word **Samayam** is the appropriate and scientific terminology, so far as our Indian culture is concerned. We will probe into the word which has been not interpreted in true perspective. It is cent percent scientific followed by a rare and simple technology. The tradition is actually Spirit Centric, not mere brain based or intellectual. To day the knowledgeable people of the East and the West call it Therapeutic Architecture and briefly and precisely spell as Space Therapy.

In short, the Traditional Indian Sculptor or Architect, in the true sense of the words is not a mere craftsmen or building masons but they are capable of manifesting themselves in the output.

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In other words, the sculptor and architect really become sculpture and architecture just like the poet becomes the poem. The phenomenon is **Advaitic** experience at its core i.e., at scientific level, and **Dwaitic** at technological level. In Tamil, the word **KARU** [கரு] (POINT) (DOT) is Science and **KARUTHU** [கருத்து] is Technological and practical interpretation. கரு (Karu) is நுட்பம் (Subtle), கருத்து (Karuthu) is திட்டம் (Gross) we have to understand like this in this context. They are technical terms. My life long involvement and experience has revealed that it is the sculptor who becomes the sculpture and it is the poet who becomes the poem. “சிற்றிடையே சிற்பமாகிறான், கவிஞனே கவிதை ஆகிறான்” is the generalized Tamil version. This experience comes to those who create anything new or creative.

At the same time, the technology concerned with the Indian tradition, may look simplistic, but the mathematical and related concepts implied in the form and details are really mystic and terse not easily digestible for the outsiders, in the sense, it is not easily comprehensible by ordinary mind or casual on looker. This is because the design has got its roots not in the technology, that one is conversant with, but it is deep rooted in **Cosmological Science** (Consciousness) and not a handful of output of mere handicrafts, since they express out a unique aesthetical and spiritual picture from within the inner space (Jeevatman). Conclusively and concisely this is based on a unique **Science of “Energy and Matter”, “Time and Space”, “Rhythm and Form”**. More than this, the Indian Traditional Architecture is now discovered and defined to be the **supreme achievement of mathematics**. The author or source of the tradition is also discovered, and it will be revealed later at appropriate context.

Unlike modern material science, the Indian Science is not derived from technology, that we study in the contemporary educational institutions, but Indian tradition has derived its technology from Science of supreme kind and identified to be a science of “Space and Time”. This may look upside down or strange or paradoxical, but it is indeed unique, sacred and exceptional as also factual.

Modern or Western science is experimental, in the sense, they put everything to LAB test and evolve the science out of the technological results. But the Indian tradition is just the reverse as the tradition holds that, **the technology is evolved from science, but not the Science from technology.** Is this not unique? It is not strange! That is why modern scientists call this **"Sacred Geometry"**, implying that God's creations are basically sacred and geometric forms inhering life within - **God, the universal creative principle geometrizes everything He feels at heart is a great mathematical statement of one contemporary scientist.** It conforms to Indian concept spiritually and scientifically.

This Science of Indian origin is consciously linked to the Dynamics of the **SPIRIT** or linked to the Divine Substance which is the source of the **SPACE** above our head, lying beyond one's reach. That is why, they go to get explained by monks or those living in forest and remote hilly areas with their mind always fixed at the apex! Yet they themselves have not so far identified the real roots of the tradition and asserted with the details of the roots with emphasis. Instead, they have fabricated stories about these phenomena resulting into fiction and leading to friction, in practical life. The complexes - inferiority and superiority in social status erupted and continue even today.

This Traditional Architecture and Sculpture is, I used to say, with good deal of emphasis that it is **Spirit Centric**. If that is so, what is that **SPIRIT**? Where, does it exist? It has been the age long quest by all intellectuals and by great sages all over the world. Even today when Science is highly advanced, anybody is likely to ask the same question but if it is articulated orally, it is too difficult to prove physically and say emphatically. Everything spoken or done by Sthapatis (Master Designers and Builders) is not philosophy, which is totally inferential with no end at all, lacking enormous reliability and dependability. They are again Spiritual as the tradition itself is born of the **SPIRIT**.

To quote some examples, we have among our brethren only one Kambar, only one Valluvar, only one Kalidasan and one only Shakespeare? Why and How? All were capable of

speaking and writing in the language of their own. But they are not like persons highly and supremely talented as held in reality. There must be something unique in them. The discovery is that they are Spirit Centric and that utterance or verbal exposition or narration is Spirit based. Spirit is Consciousness or simply 'Feeling'.

Coming back to Science, I would say that the Upper space or Celestial space is the ultimate substance that would never disappear, whereas the Terrestrial space or Cosmological space enclosing objects like Sun, Planets, and Earth etc. will one day vanish or disappear into the Empty space (Soonyaambaram). You may fly high to any height but you cannot reach the real summit or end. I am not speaking religion but, I am revealing the most exalted and Supreme Science, born of **Kumari Continent**, with in which our Tamil land forms part of.

Several million years ago, the essence contained in the space was identified as spreading all over the world, as it contained within the Cosmos. We Indians call it **Vastu** (quit essence) and the Western Scholars call it **GOD** or **SPIRIT** and technically as Energy. **What is God?** and **Who is God? What are His functions?** Yes, all are to know about God and the meaning of the word G-O-D. God is one SINGLE CREATIVE LIVING SUBSTANCE capable of motivating or activating **Creation, Protection (Sustenance) and Eradication** of all living beings, born of the **Supreme Principle**. God is to be recognized and interpreted as "**G**" standing for **Generative principle**, "**O**" for **Operative principle** and "**D**" for **Destructive principle**. We Indians say that God is a Potential Substance or energy with the qualities of Srishti, Sthithi and Samharam [ஆக்கல் – காத்தல் – துடைத்தல் in the Tamil Tradition]. He exists everywhere and He is **EXISTENCE** itself. Hence the word **VASTU**, meaning or pointing to an everlasting and ever existing substance. It is **ONE**, not many. It is potential energy!

When the birth of Earth took place, it was a single and unified mass of Earth. It came from the **SPACE** and it gave birth to all substances, like a mother (or mother Earth) germinating and generating and developing vegetation or vegetable kingdom etc. But, over the centuries, the solid mass of earth broke into bits or pieces of Earth called Continents, Sub-Continents and Mini

Islands like Fiji or Hawaii. All due to disturbance in the Earth - Deluges and Tsunamis. When they (bits) were very lying close initially to each other, the travel from one end of the earth to another was easy and possible by sea and land. This is because two - thirds of the Globe is filled with water, only one - third is packed with earthly mass (sand and rocks). Without going further into this Science, I am going to combine the Mundane and the Divine and expose the roots of our Indian Culture, which was once upon a time universal Human Culture, not restricted to India alone.

Having sensed that much, I would be happy to reveal succinctly that there are two major SPACES and two other minor, but very important SPACES. They are primal or elemental. What are those major Spaces? The word SPACE is not merely “PLACE”, but more than that in scientific context. Space is therefore a SPACE filled with ENERGY particles or Energetic atoms, called KARU or GARBHA in Tamil and Sanskrit.

What is called normally as Upper space is **Celestial or Divine space** and the other Space is called **Terrestrial Space** with Sun, Moon, Star, etc suspended therein. The next important Space is “**inner space of human beings**”, but in English we call it Microbiological atomic space. The former Vast or wide spread space is **Paramatman** and the other smallest one existing in the cave of our heart is **Jeevatman** (Life). This is Indian Scientific identification and interpretation about spaces.

To repeat the SPACE that lives in human heart is of **micro sized cubical atom** and in Indian terminology it is inner space, called **Jeevatman** and the Ultimate SPACE which lies beyond our reach is **Paramatman** with three fold quality - Satvica, Rajasa and Tamasa meaning Calm, Vibrant and Aggressive. In Tamil the upper space is called Vin - space [விண்வெளி] because innate vibrancy and the lower space (Earthly Space) is called Mann space [மண்வெளி]. In other words in Tamil, they are called Vin [விண்] and Mann [மண்] and the space within our human body is called Ahavin [அகவிண்] and the physical space outside is Puravinn [புறவிண்]. Veli [வெளி] is that element capable of projecting or ejecting everything it harbor in its spiritual body.

Every living form, on Earth is therefore Energy centric. Now we have to examine and reveal the qualities implied in the outer space (Paramatman) and inner space (Jeevatman). They are interrelated in this context that they are energies capable of creating wonders in the world. This energy has got different dimensions in form and meaning. The Form is the container and Meaning is the content. The spirit is creative in universal context.

The content is called Vastu [வஸ்து] and container is Vaastu [வாஸ்து]. They are respectively pure Energy and Embodied energy. Every living object in this world is energy content, which energy is the Atman. Nothing in this world is without this energy, containing inside the form, but it is invisible. **Here lies the problem.** There exists the so called mysticism about Indian Architecture and Sculpture. Once the mysticism and superstition are willingly detached from the tradition, the remaining purity and chastity will alone remain exposed or naked. The tradition is more of science than of social customs and manners, that are rules of morality. But Vaastu Science is concerned with another set of rules. They are scientific rules (theorems) maxims. One rule is the rule of living in harmony with subtle nature, with due respect to gross nature.

Now let us look at the same in a different way. The Cosmos is filled with energy, containing minute atoms (Paramaanus) of perfect cubes but not visible because they are emitting light (luminous). They envelop and penetrate into everything and therefore the energy (Vastu) exists everywhere. Therefore in Tamil, we call this Upper Space as விண்வெளி (Vinveli) Luminous space. And this Luminous space [விண்வெளி] turns into Material space [மண்வெளி] because of its Self Spin. **This Self Spin is (Spontaneous) elemental and creative force that causes Vin [விண்] to go into Mann [மண்] - from Energy to Matter.** It is a metamorphic phenomenon.

So the whole space filling the Cosmos is not empty space or **space of nothingness** [வெட்டவெளி] but it is the **space of everything. This is Indian Science, and of Tamil origin.** And, if a part of that space is enclosed by a four walled structure called building, it becomes a living organism. It vibrates - breathes in and breathes out like a yogi with an order in practice. On this concept, rests our Indian Temple Architecture and Sculpture as also Housing

Architecture. Hence they are absolutely natural and scientific. Let me give you a small narration of what a temple represents, how people are benefited by their visits to temple. In other words, I am to deal with form and purpose of Indian Architecture with emphasis on the temple building, about which we are now interested and wanting to learn more facts.

Now we call our Temple under reference “Navasakti Vinayagar Temple”. What is the significance of the Temple and that of the Deity enshrined inside the sanctum sanctorum, enclosing this precious object? This is called in popular English as Sanctum but in our Indian tradition, it is the main and dominant structure, called Garbagriham or Karu Arai [கருஅறை] which means womb house. What does the term signify basically? To understand this we have to ascend to celestial space which is beyond our human reach, that is Vastu space which is beyond your reach, as I pointed out earlier. “Divine Space” or “Celestial Space” is not empty space but it is filled with atoms defined as **PARAMANUS** otherwise it is filled with atoms smaller than the smallest atoms. This atom is called **Sub Atom** or **Micro Atom** or **Micro bode**. They are living cells. In Tamil and Sanskrit, as pointed out earlier, this is called Karu and Garbha and the sanctum enclosing the Karu is called Karuarai or Garbagriham. But it is also called Sitravai [சிறுவை], because it is three dimensional looking like a mini hall. This smallest atom is enlarged mathematically into the size that we have built here in the sacred Island, Seychelles. This is the central structure is Karu Arai or Garbhagriham. We can also say that the Island itself is a shell equal to the sanctum which is otherwise called big hall Peravai பேரவை [அ] பேரம்பலம். The Sanctum which is normally three dimensional is called Sitravai or Chitrambalam or Chitambaram meaning thereby three dimensional structure (hall) containing the subtle substance or space called - Karu or Garba.

We have to remember that the Micro atoms that the sky is filled with, are three dimensional and of cubical shapes. In Tamil this cubical atom is called Muchaturam [முச்சதுரம்] and the related plan is Sachaturam (Square) [சச்சதுரம்]. It is archetypal and basic form in Indian Architecture, out of which multi dimensional and aesthetical forms emerged. So our sanctum

sanctorum mostly will be square in plan, sometimes rectangular too, which is mere extension of the flat primal square space. Rectangular form is extended form of square with a definite proportion, a unique calculation touching the ultimate source. The space in front and also all around the sanctum and also outside that space, but with the compound wall called Temple complex, are all enclosed by the tall compound wall, so that the waves of energy coming out of the opening of the sanctum spreads all over the enclosed space. Now this is called Spiritual Environment and it is held sacred. Therefore, in as much as sanctum is said to be sacred the space all over, within the complex is also held sacred. This sacredness of space is achieved from a mathematical calculation, as given in our so called Vaastu Shastras or Sthapatya Veda (we call this part of the mathematics as “AYAADI GANANAM”). In the vibration of the waves coming out of the sanctum going out into village or Island, means that the whole area is therefore sanctified with sacred waves of energy. Whether one likes it or not, it is based on Science and it occurs. Here, this is unavoidable. It affords healthy life to all Villagers or Islanders. Therefore there has come in to vogue, a statement that don't live in a place where there is no temple [ஆலயம் இல்லாத ஊரில் குடியிருக்க வேண்டாம்]. This statement is not puranic or mundane but scientific and factual. We have had therefore more than 35,000 temples in Tamilnadu alone. New temples are also coming up in the country, of late. A good number of temples have into America Continent.

We have another space built with in our body which is also called “Built Space” sometimes as embodied energy. **Our physical body itself is a building** built of musical space. This space is also capable of vibrating and sending out waves of energy. The vibrations of individual temple goer, and the vibrations coming out of the sanctum, normally meet and resonate with each other **numerically**. The concordance and discordance depend upon this NUMBER. The resonated and resulting feeling of worshipper or temple goer is called Bhakti or Love. This kind of scientific waves and those of the visitors merge with each other, the event of merger being technically called Layam. Since Layam is spread all over the enclosed space, the entire enclosed space has come to mean Alayam [ஆலயம்]. This word Alayam simply means that everything that goes inside, merges with the Layam or Rhythm of the space entered into.

Whether one believes in this concept, which is purely scientific, not religious or puranic, whether one believes in the science or not, the healthy waves coming out of the temple complex afford health and long life. That is why, we say anybody related to temple or living around the temple whether they go there or don't go there, it is something like Air or Fire or Music that are common and enjoyed by all people living in the island. **So people are advised not to live in a village or town where there is no temple.** So the Maxim goes like this in Tamil tradition. [கோயில் இல்லா ஊரில் குடிபிருக்க வேண்டாம்]. On this account our Jeevatman gets strengthened. This is ஆன்மபலம் (Spiritual strength) You would be surprised that the Five Fold Art (Poetry, Music, Dance, Sculpture and Architecture) have the same effect on our body and psyche. They have the same grammar of Vibration. Hence they were patronized and protected under the roof of the temple sponsored by Kings and monarchs. The Temple under reference should be made free to all, after consecration. The doors should be left open for all, just as Science is common for all. Every Hindu Temple is not sectarian. Every temple I have built in USA are treated as common to all, without restriction based on Caste, Creed or Colour. In as much as God is common to all, the Temple of God is also common to all. The denial is foolish and ignorance. The Hindu Temple is becoming non sectarian and free to all humans. The Chief Designer or the STHAPATI should be aware of this, because "Architecture is defined as the supreme achievements of mathematics. This applies to Housing Architecture too"!

The unseen God is now brought into our unseen Jeevatman (not known to the doctor who does open heart surgery) and brought face to face. The Jeevatman and Paramatman merge together leading to the enjoyment of peace and bliss, in one's life time.

The temple which has been successfully completed in Seychelles, was originally a simple and small with less of aesthetical and embellishing features necessary for a single temple. This has been now improvised with a Vimanam not only renovated but rejuvenated recently with additional measures and features. Hindu or Indian Temple is not a show piece of handicrafts. but a book of spiritual science and spiritual learning born of Kumari Continent.

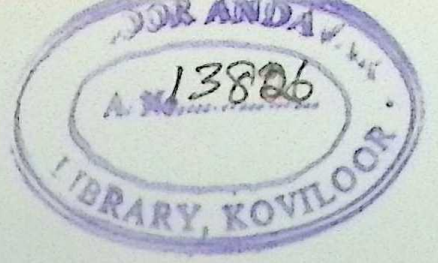
Just around this temple there is a passage called Prakaram பிராகாரம், திருச்சுற்று (circumambulatory passage) with auxiliary shrines. This is also improved with additional embellishments and necessary minor corrections.

What is very important in this temple is that there is no entrance tower called Gopuram, the design of which is also scientific, to make the temple complete in all respects. The temple has been designed and built very beautifully with a lot of embellishments to attract not only pilgrims but also tourists. This is on the Art - side. Hereafter the revenue of the temple will also increase on account of the temple being a gem of attraction for tourists and pilgrims to the Island. The poojas should be simple and subtle. Perfect tranquility should prevail in the environment, without noise pollution.

The Tamils and local citizens of neighboring Island will also come in large numbers which will boost the Islands importance and augment the revenue of the Government manifold.

Because of the temple has a unique feature of a five storied tower with all embellishments richly introduced, the revenue for the temple, and people wanting to know more about the temple concept will also throng the portals of the temple after it is thrown open. Thereby the meaning of the temple and the spiritual significance will spread not only in the Island and the countries near by, but the name and fame of the building community will also soar high and spread far and wide. I would say, **with joy that the younger generations of committee members are responsible for good features and good future too.** I congratulate not only the youngsters, but also the former builders. I must also thank the donors who must feel proud of a beautiful temple that has come into being.

One word about the Deity "Ganapati". This deity is the deity who is invoked first before beginning any good work like daily pooja and animal festivals, traditionally. Because He is Brahman (the supreme lord whose name indicates the "Vibration" quantified by the measures used in the design of the Temple and Temple parts. **Ganaa naam patihi Ganapati** - meaning Lord of Mathematical calculations and concepts. Hence we pay him the first worship or first respect in Temple, during ritualistic activities! [ஆதமச் சடங்குகள்]. So a well versed priest is necessary!



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We designers and builders coming from India are greatly thankful to all those Trustees and supporters - old and new - for establishing our Indian Culture for the welfare and well being of the Islanders in general i.e. to Hindus and Non Hindus.

I also thank the Govt of Seychelles for all their patronage and love for the universal spiritual culture born of Tamil region, to come to Seychelles and spread all over the Island in these hard days, occupied by the Tamils of the present day. I wish all of those connected to the project healthy and prosperous life.

This piece of information is provided with a view to understand the efficacy of temple and temple worship imported from Tamil soil.

Several thousands of years, particularly from the period of First Tamil Sangam, established by Nilamtharu Thiruvil Pandiyan (நிலந்தரும் திருவில் பாண்டியன்), this tradition has been in existence in spite of too many Deluges and Tsunamis and the destruction and damages caused in the recent past. Now-a-days everybody has come to understand the havoc caused by such evil forces of Nature, not to blame any humans.

So many Deluges have occurred many a time in the area south of the present Kanyakumari covering Srilanka, Madakaskar, Indonesia, Australia, South America and so many neighboring land masses. The so called Lemourian continent or Kumari Kadam and the history behind it is the best example regarding the cataclysmic changes or Deluges that had occurred in the past.

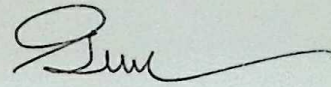
In spite of such damages, the Tamil country which is actually part of India has preserved its original or regional culture for which the whole world is very much interested and indebted. To day it is universal culture as it was in the past, several millions of years before. On that account all our brethren visit India frequently. The economic growth of the nation is also growing in leaps and bounds, wherever such temple spring forth!

Similar experience (not Deluges) will be available with respect to the increased revenue to the Govt. because of the temple which carries a unique and mystic science till date, and remaining enigmatic, mystic and unknown to even to the great scientist of the day. The temple

space discussed at this context is panesia for all human ills, mental and physical.

To repeat again the Ancient Indian Science is a Science of **“Energy and Matter”**, **“Time and Space”**, **“Rhythm and Form”**. I take this as a great gift to the ancient Tradition still preserving this unique science which is today being shared with the local citizens of Seychelles.

There are photographs and line drawings for readers to understand the beauty of the composition of the structure that I have designed and executed through my associates during the last three years. As Chief Sthapati I thank every one of the Executive Board and Citizens of Seychelles for giving me a golden opportunity to present to you the best of all towers executed by my team of Shilpis so far, else where.



Shilpa Guru Dr. V. Ganapati Sthapati.



Elegant Five Storeyed RajaGopuram, newly designed and built.
This is a gem among towers built in recent times in India and elsewhere.

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Another view of Rajagopuram



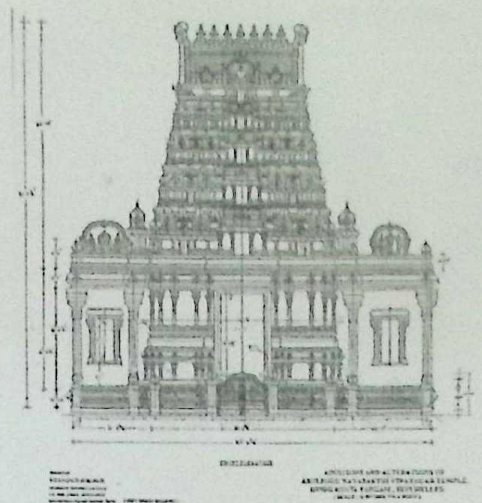
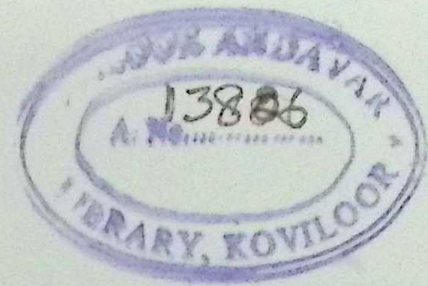
Two Storeyed Vimanam renovated and rejuvenated by a team of Indian Shilpis
commisioned for this purpose. Is this not looking young and attractive.



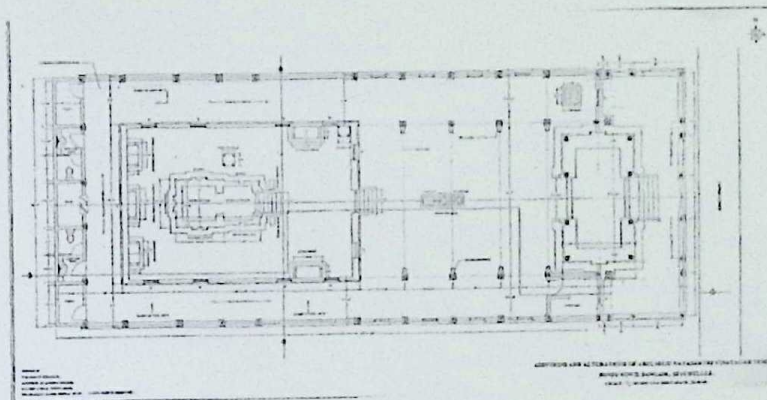
Another view of Vimanam coming over Sanctum, with additional symbols and embellishments attributed to Vimanam structure.
This is coming over the main sanctum.



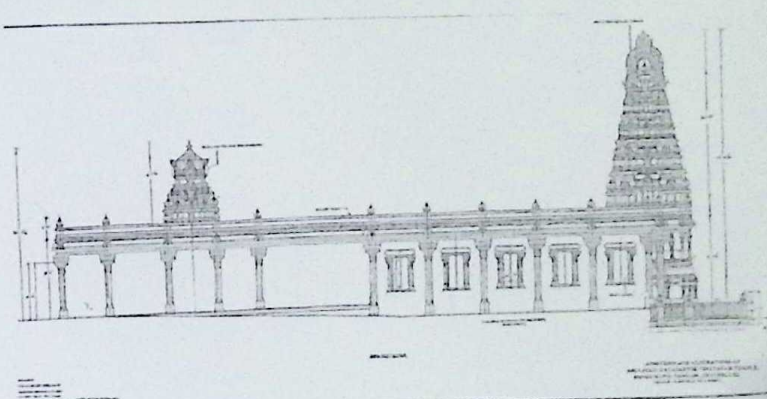
Inner view of front hall (Maha mandapam) with Yazhi motifs that add to the elegance of the temple environment.



Design of RajaGopuram as designed by the Sthapati comparable to structure completed.



This Plan gives a synopsis of a whole temple scheme enshrined with Sri Navasakti Vinayagar in the main sanctum. Around this is a passage called Circumambulatory passage. Infront, you have Mahamandapam with Yazhi pillars. Still further on the front side, the RajaGopuram, the main entry, is located without affecting local rules.



Side Elevation of RajaGopuram and Vimanam with Prakara walls.

